The Talking Stick

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide exemplary programs that challenge and inspire all learners to become reflective, caring and responsible citizens. We are committed to fostering a safe school community in which diversity is respected, and learners are encouraged to achieve their full potential.

HIGHLIGHTS

Check out our new WebPage: http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/AboriginalEd/Pages/default.aspx

Also new this year, we have the Parent Consultation form available on line. Please visit our webpage and select Parent Consultation Form, complete for each of your children and hit submit.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 6	Parent Advisory
October 11	No School
October 22	District Pro D
November 9,10	Siyá:ye Yoyes
November 11, 12	No School
December 1	Post-Secondary Fair
December 20	Winter Break
January 4	Schools Open

A Message from the District Administrator: Laurie Ebenal

Welcome to the 2010- 2011 school year!

It's hard to believe a week of school has already been completed. We want to welcome everyone back to their perspective schools for what promises to be another exciting and productive school year. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and our department. I am the new district administrator for Aboriginal Education. I have worked in School District 43 for the past 7 years and was honoured and pleased to become part of this department. Wendy Hawkin is the new co-coordinator as Margaret-Mary Deck has taken a position as the Vice-Principal at Eagle Ridge elementary school. We wish her well.

- Terri-Mae Galligos is a teacher with the department and works with the elementary school program. Jacquie Boons is our secretary and if you need any assistance please give her a call at 604.945.7386.
- The department has 5 youth workers, Gena Sanderson, Walter Larson, Lori Halcro, Carrie Clark and Erin Marshall. The youth workers are assigned to a group of schools and their job is to assist the students and families. Their goal is to make sure our aboriginal students experience success in the school system.
- We also have 5 Aboriginal Educational Support Workers, Dawn Marks, Shelley Saje-Ricci, Verna Aquash, Jennifer Sherif, and Dallas Yellowfly. They provide educational support in the schools they are assigned to. The Educational Support Workers facilitate the pull-out program at the schools. These programs are designed to provide aboriginal students with a better understanding of their culture and utilize the school system to its full advantage. If you would like more information about the pull-out program please call Jacquie or myself at the office.
- On the next page, we have provided you with a copy of our youth workers and educational support workers, their schools and how to contact them.
- Parent Consent forms formally known as the Green Sheets are now found on our Aboriginal Education Home page. We are encouraging all parents to fill in the form on-line. One of our staff will be calling you this month to assist you.
- We have mailed the first newsletter to the mailing address you have provided to the school. We would like to email the subsequent newsletters so if you have not done so please provide us with an email address. There is a space provided on the Parent Consent form for this information.

I want to wish you a wonderful school year and look forward to meeting you all.

Enhancement Agreement

The Aboriginal Education Program provides a wide array of resources and opportunities to enhance the learning environment for all Aboriginal learners - First Nations status, non-status, Inuit and Métis.

Schools provide the daily structures and supports. Working with Aboriginal families, and the Aboriginal community at large, classroom teachers respond to the unique educational needs of their Aboriginal students. The responsibility for Aboriginal student success belongs to everyone and this is a common theme of the Agreement.

The Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement focuses on the academic, emotional, physical and cultural growth of all Aboriginal students and raises the profile of Aboriginal learners. It is a means to an end, and that end is improved out comes for Aboriginal students. It signifies the collective responsibility of School District No. 43, and all Aboriginal communities served by the district, for the success of Aboriginal students. Although the Aboriginal Education Department has taken the lead in working with the community, while developing the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement , the daily experiences in schools will make it a living document that truly changes the reality of Aboriginal learners. All students, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, will develop greater knowledge and respect for Aboriginal traditions, challenges and potential. The Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement has been informed and directed by a respectful, reflective, and open process of inquiry and relationship-building. All contributions from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants have been valued, in a process led by the Aboriginal heart and mind and enhanced by input from the extended learning community.

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement Goals:

1. Increase knowledge and respect for Aboriginal culture and history for all students
2. Increase the number of Aboriginal students reporting feelings of safety and a sense of belonging
3. Improve Aboriginal students' achievement
4. Improve Aboriginal students' Grade-to-Grade Transition Rate and Six-Year Dogwood Completion Rate.

Guided by the four goals of our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement, the Aboriginal Education Program of School District No. 43 strives to:

1. Promote the cultural identity of our Aboriginal students;
2. Create a positive learning environment that supports the Aboriginal students;
3. Improve academic achievement of all Aboriginal students;
4. Raise awareness of First Nations cultures within our school community;
5. Work in cooperation with schools, community and Aboriginal families.

Aboriginal Parents Advisory Council	
Laurie Ebenal	Lisa Gregory
Tom Grant	Caisy Jackson
Dave Taylor	Theresa Karhokangas
Bill Trask	Cassiea & Artemio Mugica
Terri-Mae Galligos	Lanita Peddie
Lori Halcro	Lorraine Richard
Carole Pierce	Robert Thompson
Chief Ron Giesbrecht	Lolita Wittur

Our Staff:

My name is **Laurie Ebenal** and I am Métis and my family comes from a small settlement St. Joseph's Colony, Saskatchewan as well as from Alsace-Lorraine, France. I moved to British Columbia from Saskatchewan and I have spent many years working with the Heiltsuk (Waglisla), Muachet/Mouchalet (Gold River) and Chemainus (Ladysmith) peoples. I was the VP at Riverside secondary and Maillard middle before accepting my new position at Aboriginal Education.

Wendy Hawkin, Coordinator has Tuscarora ancestry and is passionate about First Nations education. She graduated from Trent University in Ontario with a major in Native Studies, so many of her teachings are Anishinabe. She has been teaching English and working with adolescents in Student Services for the past ten years, and is thrilled to join our department as Coordinator.

Terri-Mae Galligos, is from the Sliammon Nation, and has been a District Aboriginal Resource teacher, and has been with the Coquitlam School District for 15 years.

My name is **Dawn Sasges**, I have a Master of Science in Audiology and Speech-Sciences, UBC, 2003. I have worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist in the District for the 7 years and have enjoyed working with the Aboriginal Education Department in the area of oral language enhancement. My passion is to help children develop strong oral language skills which are the basis for strong reading and writing language skills and ultimate academic success. My husband and three children are of Métis heritage.

Greetings! My name is **Breanne Neibel**, and my ancestry is Italian/German/ Cree. I have spent the last year tutoring on the Kwikwetlem reservation! I received my teaching Degree from Simon Fraser University and my passion for Aboriginal History and Education had led me to this department! I look forward to a great new school year!

Dawn Brown is a passionate and spiritual First Nations artist living and working out her dreams having mastered different art form mediums. Currently she is focused on creating glass etched art as well as Ceremonial Button blankets. She is also a master artist in beadwork and is a member of the Métis Nation.

Hello, my name is **Jacquie Boons**. My father came from Hungary in the 30's. I am first generation Canadian on my father's side and third on my mother's. I am looking forward to my second year with the program.

Youth Workers:

Pekwin! My name is **Carrie Clark** and I am from the Nlaka Pamux Nation, also know as Thompson Nation from the Merritt area. It has been a pleasure working with our families for the past 12 year.

Gilaksla! My name is **Gena Sanderson** I am from the Nam'gis Band from Alert Bay, BC. I worked for the Campbell River School District for 26 years in the Aboriginal Department. I was hired with the Coquitlam School District January 2010.

My name is **Walter Larson** and I am Métis. My family comes from the Red River settlement (Cree) and from the Orkney Islands (Scotland). I have worked in the district for several years and look forward to another school year.

My name is **Erin Marshall** and I am of mixed heritage; my family roots come from the Coast Salish people; my ancestry is both Squamish and Sechelt Nation and Irish Celtic decent. I walk in two worlds and I look forward in bringing the harmony and balance of both to the children of School District 43.

Tansi! My name is **Lori Halcro** and I am Métis. I grew up in Coquitlam and have been a Youth Worker since 1985, and have worked in Coquitlam since 1991. I am pleased to be starting my fifth year with the Aboriginal Education Department.

Support Workers:

I am **Shelley Saje Ricci** of Cree ancestry from north eastern Alberta. I have been with the Aboriginal Education team for 3 years delivering cultural and academic lessons in my role as an Aboriginal Support Worker.

My name is **Dallas Yellowfly**. My father is Blackfoot from the Siksika Nation in Calgary Alberta, and my mother is third generation Scottish from Chilliwack British Columbia. I have been working in the district as an Aboriginal support worker for 6 years. I do in-class presentations in the secondary, middle, and elementary schools throughout the district.

O si yo (Hello). My name is **Jennifer Sherif** and my ancestry stems from the Cherokee nation. I have worked in a variety of capacities with First Nations youth, including as a motivational speaker and as a tutor for students with learning chal lenges. I taught ESL for nearly nine years before coming on board at SD43. I am very excited to be working in the district this year!

My name is **Dawn Marks**. I am from the shíshálh First Nation and the Chehalis Indian Band from the Stó:lō Nation. I am an Aboriginal Support Worker and work in most of the Port Coquitlam schools.

Boozhoo ahniin!! (Hello, how are you)? My name is **Verna Aquash** and I am from the Big Grassy First Nation near the Great Lakes area in Ontario and am fully fluent in my Ojibway language.

Who do I call if I have an issue to be resolved?

Laurie Ebenal, District Administrator, 604.945.7386.

Who do I call if I have an issue to be resolved?

School newsletters will be sent home electronically during the last week of each month. If, for some reason, you don't receive the newsletter via email, please go to our website where our newsletter will be posted every month. If you are aware of a parent who does not have internet access, please let them know that we also do a small run of printed newsletters each month which are available for pick-up by parents or students from our main reception area in the office.

Aboriginal Education Website

Our website is currently undergoing a transformation which we hope will make it even more useful to parents, staff and students. Soon, our website will include a community portal where parents and students will have access to a broad range of information such as calendars, our daily bulletin, extracurricular activities and schedules and much more. We appreciate your patience as we make these changes to our website – stay tuned!

Who do I call if I am concerned about my child?

Carrie Clark 604.219.6555	Lori Halcro 604.317.4862	Walter Larson 604.802.6633	Gena Sanderson 604.836.2041	Erin Marshall 604.329.2375
Anmore Aspenwood Glenayre Heritage Mountain Miller Park Moody Elementary Pleasantside Seaview Moody Middle COL Heritage Woods Moody Secondary	Birchland Blakeburn Castle Park Cedar Drive Coquitlam River Hazel Trembath Irvine James Park Leigh Citadel Kwayhquitlum Minnekhada Terry Fox	Central Harbour View Kilmer Mary Hill Montgomery Hillcrest Maillard Pitt River CABE Riverside	Alderson Baker Drive Cape Horn Lord Baden Powell Mundy Road Parkland Porter RC MacDonald Riverview Park Rochester Roy Stibbs Banting Como Lake Centennial Dr Charles Best	Bramblewood Eagle Ridge Glen Hampton Park Meadowbrook Mountain Meadows Mountainview Nestor Panorama Heights Pinetree Way Ranch Park Walton Westwood Maple Creek Scott Creek Summit Gleneagle Pinetree

Support Workers				
Verna Aquash	Jennifer Sherif	Dawn Marks	Shelley Saje-Ricci	Dallas Yellowfly
Aspenwood Bramblewood Eagle Ridge Glen Hampton Park Meadowbrook Nestor Walton Westwood	Alderson Cape Horn Harbour View Lord Baden Powell Mountain View Mundy Road Porter Street Rochester Roy Stibbs	Birchland Castle Park Cedar Drive Irvine James Park Kilmer Leigh Mary Hill	Central Coquitlam River Glenayre Miller Park Moody Elementary Parkland Pleasantside Seaview	Anmore Baker Drive Blakeburn Hazel Trembath Heritage Mountain Mountain Meadows Panorama Heights Pinetree Way RC Macdonald Ranch Park Riverview Park
Maple Creek Scott Creek	Como Lake Hillcrest Maillard Montgomery	Citadel Kwayhquitlum Minnekhada Pitt River	Banting Moody Middle	Summit CABE Centennial Dr Charles Best Gleneagle Heritage Woods Moody Secondary Pinetree Riverside Terry Fox

Artist in the School: Dawn Brown

District Speech– Language Pathologist: Dawn Sasges

Teachers		
Wendy Hawkin, Coordinator	Terry-Mae Galligos	Breanne Neibel, Tutor